By Ashley Towne

Copyright, 1001, by Charles B. Etherington. \$10101010101010101010101010

"Learn more, Keyski," said Darrell. "Don't waste your time in assassination, but devote it all to the discovery of this secret. Do this for me by way of gratitude to win a great reward and to get to America, which is your dream."

Kevski was silent, fingering the rifle and staring across the little square at



He thruse has nother than term than the aperture,

Kilziar, who, having lighted a eigar, was gathering his cloak about him before stepping out into the rain.

"I will do what you tell me," said Kevski suddenly, and, as if it were a part of his promise, he turned his eyes away from the man he hated. Then, without more words, he hurried away down the dark street.

The lights still burned in the lower Windows of the inn, and those above were dark.

"My love is threatened by a hundred. deaths," said Darrell to himself as he crossed the road. "This insane and censeless toll will burn her with fever. She neither cuts nor sleeps, so Korna SHVS.

The sentry challenged, and Darrell gave his name. With little delay be was usbered into Vera's presence. She was quite alone and seemed to have been warming herself before the cmbers of a fire to a broad fireplace.

"I am glad to see you," she said. "It is a pleasure I have lacked in these last few days. Moreover, you look much more cheerful than when I saw you last. What is the cause of H-the weather perhaps?"

"I have always enjoyed a great reputation for cheerfulness," answered Darrell. "You alone seem to have found my society depressing. Yet that is not surprising perhaps. There is a malady which, according to all the poets, will make any man sigh, and I have never

"That is rather a pretty speech." said Vera. 'I have conversed principally furling these last days about corn and gunpowder. A change cheers me. Yet to contain too little wood to burn. They but they were absolutely imp I think you did not come at this late were outwardly stone structures, and hour for that alone.

"I came to tell you of a discovery that I have made, or, rather, hope to make," answered imrreft. "Perhaps you know more of it than I do, yet I cannot assume that you possess the information. Let me not waste words. If this place falls and you are taken, we may grant that Circassia's cause is lost, may we

"The place will not fall," answered "But, admitting your supposition, what follows?"

"If you, with your best officers and a small picked force, could escape and return to Circussia, there would still be hope. I have learned that there is a secret way along the face of the moun-

"And you would have me take it, leaving my soldiers to be butchered," said Vern. "That is not my idea of loyalty, which should have two sides." "Rend the history of war," answered Darrell. "Have not princes and patriots saved themselves when their lives were essential to the cause they served? Remember, I speak of the last emergency, when it has become absolutely impossible to hold the place. As for the garrison, the Russians will treat

your troops as prisoners of war.' "I do not deny," she replied, "that if I could put myself at the head of another army and continue to fight for my country I should consider it my duty to escape in case Gredskov were taken by assault and resistance here became uscless. It would be equally the duty of the humblest soldier in the army. But we cannot lose this fight and yet continue the struggle. So I shall remain and share the fate of the troops.'

"It is what I expected you to say," be rejoined. "If you had spoken otherwise, you would not have been the woman who deneed and sang with me at the students' ball in Paris. I can only wish that the prince were equally

stendfast." "Kilzinr?" queried Vera, "Again you wrong him, my friend. He may not succeed, but he will die fighting. Of that I am certain. He may not win his way out of the city, but he will at | is physically unable to do it. The counleast make the trial by the main gate and not by any secret way. He may be a man as selish as you think him, but it is sure that his selfishness now fights upon the side of our cause."

"For what reward?" asked Darrell, with a tremor of cold fear. "Even myself," she replied, "My

hand is promised to the prince if he can lead our army out of this city and cut a way through the ranks of the besiegers."

Blate Highwinel Scolet

"So good a soldier should win any battle for a prize so exalted," answered Darrell, his voice sounding to him as If it were an echo in the corners of the room. "We may then surely expect a sortie, and I trust you will permit me

to wear a sword when the day comes." He stepped back toward the door, as if to withdraw. Vern followed him with so steady and searching a glance that he could scarcely endure it.

"I shall not be the first woman of princely rank," she said, "who has torn out her heart as a gift to her country."

"Nor Kilziar the first scoundrel to exact such a pledge!" he cried; then, hastily: "Pardon me! I am not myself. If you have honored him even with a promise thus qualified, my lips should be sealed. Command me always."

Outside the rain still fell relentlessly. At a corner of the street two officers meeting by chance, had stepped back to the shelter of a projecting roof. Darrell, passing, recognized one of them as Korna.

in a cheerful tone.
"Plenty of it," responded Korna. "The hills round Gredskov have a fe ishes as if it were grass. Half their the son of his distinguished father men will die of it, and, as it is particularly hard upon all who are past forty, their generals will all be flat on their backs, with colonels and captains by the dozen to keep them company. We shall carve our way out of this place."

"I begin to believe you," said his companion, "but what the devil we shall do afterward with the roads in this condition I don't know."

"I asked Prince Kilzlar that," replied Korna, with a laugh. "He winked straight up into the air, as his habit is, and answered me that it made no difference to him."

"It made no difference to him," re peated Darrell. "That is a bard say ing to interpret, yet there is meaning in it. Good night, gentlemen."

> CHAPTER XVIII. THE CZAR'S TERMS.



BOR five succeeding days there was no glimps of the sun. The rain was not violent, but enough fell to keep the roads impassable and to dreach the beslegers. Rumors of

their straits were rife in the city, and the defenders were in good spirits despite their own discomfort. Then upon the sixth day the sun appeared in a rift between two sterms. us the event proved, and the Russians konored him with a lively cannonade.

There seemed no reason to anticipate serious result from this fire. A certaln number of houses would certainly be destroyed and a few lives lost, but the Russian guns were not heavy enough to nifect the defenses. It was the unexpected, however, which happened. Against all probability the enemy's shells reached the two largest food depots in the city and set them on fire. The buildings had been supposed

yet the flames found material within them for stubborn and disastrous conflagrations. The loss was almost critleal, and the knowledge of it depressed the army to an alarming degree.

The rain set in again upon the following day, but ceased about noon, though the clouds did not brenk. In the full of the storm appeared a white flag advancing from the energy, and it proved to cover a demand for surrender. A defiant reply was returned, but to a subsequent suggestion for a conference a council of generals returned

a favorable answer. "Kilziar advocated it," said Kerna in telling the news to Darrell. "They will offer terms, he said, and we shall learn something of their condition. The suggestion was that Motman Khan. with an escort of five officers, meet General Panin, commander in chief of their forces, between the lines. It was



He stepped back toward the door, appear as the khan, and, moreover, she cil was held today around her bed. We ennuet carry her to the conference on a litter. Don't be too anxious. It is mere exhaustion. However, to resume, Kilziar, of course, is out of the question. The Russians hold him to be a traitor and refuse to treat with him.

General Durban will go as the repre-

sentative of the khan, and I am going

"Will you take this message to the man." the general's except."

Darrell waited in great anxiety for a reply to this plea, and he was deeply uniforna.

"Durban was consulted," said Korna, storm. "and he seemed pleased. The man has taken a great fancy to you."

"Thank heaven I have cultivated his acquaintance during this slege," re-

plied Darrell. The conference was held in a tent pitched on a hillside midway between the lines. The rain had recommenced, and a rivulet could be heard running under the rough floor of boards. Upon entering, Darrell had seep first the tall figure of General Lyaf Panin, the Russinn commander. He must have been n man of fine presence at his best, but now his visage was grotesquely red-"This rain is help from heaven, cried the colonel. "A few days more of it, and those Ru —— lil be in stood Ivan Getchikoff, the man whom such a condition that we can tear such a condition that we can tear greatly surprised to note from the first greatly surprised greatly surprised to note from the first greatly greatly surprised to note from the first greatly great ain. His uniform showed that he had been advanced another grade in the short time since Darrell had seen him ver of their own that the rain nour. In Gredskov, probably because he was

> counted for their absence, and Darrell remembered Korna's saying that the disease prestrated men past forty. The conference opened with a plain statement from General Paula. He showed a good knowledge of the condition of the besieged, especially in the matter of food supply, and he pointed out with an old soldier's precision the

rather than for his own merits. Yet

there should have been many who

would rank him in so considerable an army. Doubtiess the hill fever re-

ultimate fall of the garrison. "Your battle is tost," he said. "It is wise for you to make terms. I speak with the full authority of my government when I say that peace is the principal aim sought. The mildness of the former caar in dealing with the revolt that was quelled in '66 should be known to you all. The same policy will be pursued today if hostilities are at once suspended. There is no craying for revenue if a full submission is nade. We demand the delivery of the following prisoners, who have been

leaders in this insane undertaking." Here he read a list beginning with Prince Kliziar and cading with "the person styling himself Motman Ehnn." The others were officers directly assoclated with the prince, and Durban himself was not one of them, to his own great surprise. Judging from the list, the purpose of Russin was to secure men who had held military commissions In her service at the time of the uprising, as Durban had not. The

not was spread for traiterous soldiers. Upon the surrender of these nersons. Panta continued, with the arms and armament of the force, a general parole would be granted, and the troops would be permitted to return to their iomes, supplies and means of protection during the Journey being guaranteed.

The terms were surprisingly liberal.



The old general flung up both hands to his farchead,

under the circumstances. The immunity granted Durban was in itself a sufficient reason why he could give no favorable response. He replied in a calm tone, saying that the nature of the proposal was unexpected to him, that in order to secure consideration there must be a guarantee that the khan, Prince Kilziar and the others named would be treated as prisoners of war, but even so he could give no hope that a surrender would be made. He was proceeding toward certain suggestions of his own when suddenly, to the surprise of everybody, General Panin interrupted him and burst into a violent harangue, denonneing Kilziar and his associates in unmeasured terms and with epithets that seemed quite foreign to his nature, as his previous speech had disclosed it.

His own officers stared at him in amazement, and Darrell, standing in the darkest shadow to avoid recognition by Getchikoff, knew not what to expect. Then suddenly in the midst of his speech the old general flung up both hands to his forehead and fell neross the table behind which he had been standing. When they raised him up, he was seen to be beyond the control of reason, raving and muttering in the de-Brium of fever.

Help was summened, and he was borne away,

"lie will surely die," whispered Durban to Darrell. "It is a pity; a fine old

princess?" said Durrell. "I believe that | "As the ranking officer of the Rusmy presence with General Durban may sian forces before Gredskov," said Ivan be of the greatest value to the Circus-sian army, and I beg of her as the was said by my superior, now, unforgreatest favor she can ever grant me tunately, incapacitated for the further that I may be permitted to form one of conduct of these negotiations. You nave until tomorrow at noon to consider our proposals."

Durban and his suit bowed gravely gratified when Korna returned with and withdrew. As they returned to word that he could go-in a colonel's Gredshov the san burst through the clouds, announcing the end of the

CHAPTER XIX.



DESERTION. RINCESS VERA re ceived General Durban's report with a enlinness that would have done credit to a veteran of a dozen wars. She was lying on a couch that had

been brought down to her military workshop, and she looked pitiably ill, Behind her stood the tall amazen whom Darrell had seen on

prepare me for the work that must come tomorrow. There is plainly but one course for us. Your report makes that certainty doubly sure. We could not surrender our comrades in arms even if our case were ten times more desperate than it is. We must break through their lines."

"We have no alternative," replied Durban. "Heaven prosper us!" "Our plans are already made," said Prince Kilziar, who was present with several of his most trusted officers.

"I wish, however, that we could delay their attack for twenty-four hours." "There is no possible chance of it," answered General Durban. "We may

as well dismiss the thought." "Your pardon, general," said Darrell; "I have reason to believe that I can accomplish so much at least. I am in a position to exert personal influence up-

on General Getelikoff." Kliziar regarded Darrell with a scowl. Since the opening of the slege they had been on terms of armed neuis. Listen to this:

trality "What is the nature of that influ-

nothing. "s require no more than permission to speak with General Getchikoff alone," said Darrell.

"You will not get it from him," growled Kilziar. "I think we waste

Darrell merely bowed. He had caught the eye of General Durban and was satisfied by a glance that he would have no obstacle put in his way when the conferees should meet again on the morrow. Vera had seen this byplay, and she also remained silent. Durban presently withdrew and Dar-

rell with him. They walked together The Russlans will overwhelm us, and in silence toward a point of the forthi- the only terms will be the edge of the cations which commanded what must sword." be the field of their endeavor if they should make the attempt to cut the white as marble, "this is a matter of Russian lines.

movement of the Russian troops.

"They are closing in a bit," said Dur-"They are closing in a bit," said Durban commander. Durban can be ban after a long look through his field- triasted. We will no our under a mag or glasses. "Upon my word, they are not truce. Let him be ready in an hour. all dead of fever?"

chance?"

eral, with impressive calm. can move out. There is no way for happiness, Goodby," us to get our own guns into effective action, for they would shoot us off the and he did not attempt to come nearer face of the earth while we were limbering up. Only the merest rags of our army would ever get through, and into an effective military body. A picked force might surround the princoss and earry her to safety, but the

chances would be against it." "Do you think that is what Prince Kilziar means to do?"

"I know not," answered Durban, "but this I know-whatever he intends, it is not what he says."

Further than that the general declined to speak, and the two men fell to praising a gorgeously beautiful sunset which might well be the last that they would ever see, "By the way," said Durban as they

were about to separate, "you shall have your chance with Getchikoff tomorrow, What do you hope to accomplish-a day's delay?" "I fear I can do little," answered Darrell, "The situation essentially in-

volves defeat, whether in battle or negotiation. Kilziar and his friends are the rock on which my hopes are wreck-"There might be a way to get them out of the camp," said Durban, staring

gloomily at the black precipiess behind

the town "It would do no good," answered Darrell. "Unless they are delivered up the Russians will take the city. Sooner or later they will surely take it, and that means massacre. It means the death of the princess, whom you and I would give our lives to save, for rest assured she will not be made prisoner."

"And our sortle tomorrow," said Dur-

BACKACHE All Bindder and Urinary Discusses, St. CURE ban, "is only the same thing under another name. "The lest we can hope for is a mere postponement," continued Darrell, "I

KIDNEY and Backsoch

possible. He has no authority to make any terms or even to show mercy, while Kilzher, whom the exar holds to be a traitor utterly beyond pardon, remains a leader of our forces or sheltered within our lines. So there's the situation

may secure delay from Getchikoff, but

no influence can force him to do the im

What can we make of it?' "Tomorrow will show," answered Durban, returning Darrell's gesture of

Darrell spent a part of the evening in searching for Keyski and the balance In lard smoking and harder thinking Somewhat after midnight he betsol blinself to bed and by the exercise of great determination went to sleep,

He was awakened shortly after day break by a hasty summons from the princess. She was dressed in her mill tary uniform, even to sword and dag ger, but when she attempted to rise from a chair upon Degrell's entrance she fell back reals, lacking the strength to stand. Behind her stood the amazon, hollow eyed, ghastly pale, the plo ture of despair that is too proud to be nfmild.

Vera fooked at Darrell stendily for some seconds and then said with dire brevity:

"Prince Kilniar has left Gredskov." Darrell was stunned,

"In the night?" be cried.

"Yes; in the night."

"He has deserted you!" exclaimed Darrell, "It is more than I would have accused him of."

"Let us do him justice," answered. Vera, smiling. "He expected me to follow him, I was aroused about an hour ago by one of his most trusted officers, who was the bearer of this message, which I shall read to you. The prince was too prudent to come himself. I would have had him in the guardhouse, where his messenger now

"Vera, our cause is lost. There is treachery

"What is the inture of that influence?" asked the prince.

"If I disclose it to any one," answered Darrell, "it censes to be valid. You must take my word in the dark that it exists."

"This does not greatly encourage me," rejoined Kliziar.

"Nevertheless," said Vera, "Mr. Darrell's plan should be tried. If he can prolong the negotiations for a day, wo shall have better roads for our march westward, and the enemy will gain audining."

"Uera, our cause is lest. There is treachery among a realist in the mean in the mean is at the base was fined and filt in the mean filt by the grade of the form we still loyal, I would cause of the learn way through the enemy, but I cannot attempt to hend trailors.

"Yet you and I may have a destiny as plorious as the cut was the cut was the low we and the west in add the was used to the early by my served way. The remainder, in add and jewels, I take with me. We shall reach the sea, where friends of mine have already much preparations for our escape, and then the world is below us.

"Here follows details of the plan by

"Here follow details of the plan by which I was to overtake him under the guidance of the officer who brought me the message. The letter closes with a glowing pleture of our new life together-mine and Kilziar's. We were to found an empire in Africa, if I remember rightly, and return some day to free Circussia. I am a hamed to have given Kilzlar so low an idea of my intelligence. Yet doubtless he counted upon my terror-a woman's weaknessfor, my friend, this is the end of all of us. This news cannot long be kept from the troops, and then-anarchy,

"Vera," said Darrell, his face as minutes. I have not even time to tell There seemed to be a considerable you what I hope to do. Give me your authority to speak for you with the

"General," said Darrell, "you are an staff. I need all the trustworthy men old soldler and a good one. Have we a that can be found. And now goodby. Have Korna and Varnek among bis Remember that I was always absolute-"None whatever," replied the gen- ly yours; that from the first minute "The that I ever saw you I was as much formation of the country enables the constrained to serve you as was the enemy to plant gams beyond our range. heart in your body. It was a law of yet sweeping every road by which we nature, and obedience was my only

They spoke at three yards' distance, except for one instant, when she gave him a signet ring from her finger.

"This is your warrant," she said. "I they could never get together again know not what you will do. I am incapable of thinking. You know that I am fainting with Illness. Let that be my excuse. I pray God that you may find a way to save your own life

"He that findeth his life shall lose R," whispered Darrell in English, and he turned away as Vera, stretching out her arms to him, tried to rise and then sank back into the chair, her eyes wet with sudden childish tears. She was for an instant as be remembered her in Paris at the Gordons' house that first strange night. He dared not look at her again.

For the next hour Darrell sought for Kevski throughout the camp, but without result except that he heard a rumor of the man's desertion to the enemy. A woman who had known Key ski said that he had stolen out of the

city early the previous evening. Darrell joined General Durban and his suit at the northern gate, and the party advanced under a flag of truce. proceeding according to the regulations agreed upon when arrangements for a conference were first made between the armles.

To be Continued

CREAM SEPARATOR. nave for iten! I ha few days. ECONOMY SUPPLY CO.

# MASON & NELSON Buy and Sell Real Estate

Make Loans on Farm:Property
And Write Insurance. . . .
Taxes paid and rents collected for
non-residents. Office: Room 1, Cov. tant building. KANSAS.

CEO. W. COX, M. D. TOLA, KANSAS. PHYSICIAN and SURGEON SPECIAL ATTENTION

# ---GIVEN TO----SURGERY

Examination and Disguests of obscure .... . DISTABLE and INITIRIES. made with the aid of X-RAYS. Also filectro wherspeake trestment with X-RAY machine

JOHN HARTUNG.

AND DEALER IN ... Harness, Saddles, Collars, Whips, Laprobes,

MANUFACTURER OF

te. Everything Usually Found in a First Class Harness Shop.

IOLA, KANSAS.

A4500000000000000000 IOLA PACKING HOUSE AND WHOLESALE MEAT MARKET.

I have just completed a firstclass Packing and Slaughter House with cold storage and all modern improvements at Iola. Will pay the highest market price for fat stock of all kinds.

> WM. READICKER 101A, EANSAS

### gessees seeses ng BRIGHT'S DISEASE.

The targest sum ever pald for a pre eription, changed hands in San Franisco, Aug. 50, 1901. volved in coin and stock \$112,500.00 and was paid by a party of business men for a specific for Bright's Discuss and Diabetes, Eitherto incurable dis-

They commenced the accious investis gation of the specific Nov. 15, 1900. They interviewed scores of the cured and tried it out on its meritaby putting over three dozen cases on the treatment and watching them. They also got physicians to name chronic, incurable cases and administered it with the physicians for Judges. Up to Aug. 25, eighty-sev-ca per cent of the test cases were either

well or progressing favorably.
There being but thereen per cent of failures, the parties were satisfied and closed the transaction. The proceedings of the investigating committee and the clinical report of the test cases were altshed and will be realled t application. Address John J. Pur. ron Company, 420 Montgomery St.

### CHEAP SETTLERS' PATES TO THE FAR WEST AND NORTHWEST.

The Burlington Rente renews the ow one way Settlers' rate of \$25.00 rom Missouri Hiver to California, Portland and the Puget Sound country ery day during September and Ocober, with correspondingly low rates o the Spokane District and the Butte-Helena District; also proportionate rates from Interior Missouri, Kansas nd Southwest territory

The Burlington Northern Pacific Express" is the great through train leaving Kansas City daily, for the Northwest. Through Coaches, Chair Cars (seats free), Standard and Tourist Sleepers to Butte, Fielena, Spokane, acount, Scattle, Portland. Connecting train from Denver at night joining his Northwest train at Alliance, Neb.

### VISIT THE OLD HOME. - EAST.

Home visitors' excursions to points September ad, 9th, 16th and 23d;

mit, 3e days. Also excursion rates to Ohio and Indiana during the first week of Oc-tober at the time of the big Grand Army regnion in Washington, D. C.

TO CHICAGO. The Burlington's famous "Eli" is 'he best known and most popular train from Kansas City Joseph to Chlengo. TO ST. LOUIS. Two daily trains carrying all classes of standard Bur-

#### lington equipment. HOMESEEKERS' EXCURSIONS.

On the first and third Tuesdays of August, September and October, to nany sections of the West and North-

Consult nearest ticket agent or write the undersigned for full information, printed matter and the least cost of your proposed trip.

R. H. GROZIER, L. W. WAKELEY, T.P. V. 803 Main St., Gen'l Pass's Agent, HANSAFERTY, MO. 87, LOUIS, MO. C. M. LEVEY. General Manager, ST. Laulis, MO.

DR. J. E. CHASTAIN DENTIST

has recommed his office, over Mrs. Turner' Millinery store, on West Madison Avenue OIVE HIM A CALL St. Brown E . A No.